



Top base and local officials join Col. Joseph R. Wingard, commanding officer, MCLB (right), in celebrating the kennel opening April 28 during a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Military working dogs find comfort ‘in the doghouse’

Story and Photos by
CPL. ISAAC PACHECO
EMBLEM STAFF

Military Working Dogs aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany recently gave the phrase “in the doghouse” a whole new meaning after base officials cut the ribbon on a new kennel facility here April 28.

The ceremony for the grand opening of the new kennel featured presentations by several special guests, including MCLB Commanding Officer Col. Joseph Wingard.

Col. Wingard spoke volumes about the key function military working dogs serve in supporting the Marine Corps.

“We have (MCLB Albany) dog teams in Iraq right now, and we have two more on the way,” Col. Wingard said. “These new facilities will give our dogs a safer, more restful environment, and help them live longer.”

Deputy Provost Marshal Lt. Neil Davies said construction of the new K-9 facility reinforced the important role military working dogs play in the war on terror.

“Ever since the United States was victimized by the infamous terror attacks of September 11, security has become a premium,” Davies said. “Our military working dogs and handlers are a tremendous tool and an invaluable asset to not only the Marine Corps and Department of De-

fense, but also various local, state and federal agencies.”

According to Davies, MCLB Albany’s military working dog teams have not only been instrumental in the war against terrorism, but also against illegal drug distribution.

“Along with various explosive detection missions, our dogs are also used to support the War on Drugs,” Davies said. “While on assignment our (K-9) teams have had great success intervening large narcotics shipments destined for the United States.”

The new kennel is located near the intersection of Cash Avenue and Walker Avenue, and features outdoor and climate-controlled



Sgt. Daniel Hillery, kennel master, PMO, parades his canine sidekick, “Aldo” during the grand opening ceremony.



Georgia Army National Guard set to relocate, share MCLB facilities

Story and Photos by
CPL. DENYELLE D. D’AVETA
EMBLEM STAFF

A Planning Charette was recently held here between Georgia Army National Guard and Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany personnel concerning the relocation of the Albany National Guard unit located here on base.

“It just makes sense,” said LtCol. Bruce Berger, director of Planning and Programming, Construction and Facilities Management Office, Georgia Army National Guard. “We need to move from our current facility, and this way the National Guard could share the facilities with the Marine Corps Reserve that are already on the base.”

The estimated cost for the new joint reserve facility is approximately \$17 to \$20 million, and the appropriate documents were drawn up to be sent to the National Guard Bureau, the Office of the Secretary of Defense for the Department of Defense, and Congress for approval.

One of the more important reasons for moving the Albany National Guard unit is the Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection policy.

In this policy it states that DoD assets should be guarded in order to protect property. The existing National Guard security in Albany is not enough to meet these requirements.

“The new facility will enhance the jointness and readiness of the Marine Corps Reserve and the National Guard, as well as MCLB,” said Robert Hill, director of Installation and Logistics here.



LtCol. Bruce Berger, director of Planning and Programming, Construction and Facilities Management Office, Georgia Army National Guard, explains the objectives of a Planning Charette.

“It will also help increase the reserve and National Guard training capabilities to the standards they need for mission readiness training. It is a win-win situation. Both of the units will have new facilities, and we will save the military money by reducing the need for two new separate training facilities,” Hill continued.

If this project is approved, it will mean many different things for MCLB. It will include increased use in programs and services provided for servicemembers here, provide Marine Corps Community Services the chance to bring in more military members to use its facilities and services, and increase food provisions in support of National Guard week-end training. MCLB barracks may also be allotted for the soldiers to use during their training weekends.

The Albany National Guard will also move all of its existing equipment here from its current training location. While many things will be shared between both services, the National Guard’s motor transport

vehicles will be kept separate from the equipment here.

“We will have a separate motor pool due to the difference in our missions,” Berger said. “We will establish the motor pool to maintain and house our own vehicles.”

During the charette, Berger also offered National Guard support in helping with MCLB’s maintenance load.

“If the workload becomes overwhelming at any point, the National Guard may be able to help with the maintenance,” Berger said.

Although the charette will move the increase the project design to 15 percent, the area where the new facility will be located is still being discussed. It is estimated that 40 acres will be needed.

When both organizations receive the thumbs up from higher headquarters, the planning will continue. It is estimated that 20 active duty National Guardsmen, 100 vehicles, and 110 trailers will be moved aboard MCLB and become part of the existing Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry. In fact, a current agreement calls for MCLB and the Georgia Army National Guard to begin moving approximately 110 trailers here within the next month.

“This project demonstrates the teamwork of both MCLB and the Georgia Army National Guard,” Hill said. “This is the beginning of a jointly shared vision. I think many great things will come from this process.”



Pictured is the visual concept of the new joint Marine Corps Reserve and Georgia Army National Guard facility.

BICmd Marines run Fernandina Beach Shrimp Festival 5K

STAFF SGT. MICHAEL REED
BICMD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BLOUNT ISLAND COMMAND JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Blount Island Command Marines helped promote community relations by taking part in the 10th Annual Fernandina Beach Shrimp Festival 5K Run, May 1.

The run was a part of Fernandina Beach’s 42nd Annual Shrimp Festival, which began April 29 and ended Sunday.

While forming up under an overcast sky and preparing to compete in the annual run, 10 BICmd Marines readied themselves to go on a “little motivating run” on the sand-covered streets of Fernandina Beach.

The run, which welcomed runners of all ages, kicked off at 8 a.m.

The run also played host to more than 450 runners, along with more than 200 kids participating in the 7th Annual Katie Caples Memorial Youth Run. The proceeds from the runs will go to help the YMCA’s Really Caring Campaign.

According to Teri Daggett, Shrimp Run coordinator, the campaign raises funds to allow financial assistance for YMCA memberships and programs.

“Each year, more and more runners come out to participate in this very worthy cause. This year breaks last year’s record with runners and raising more than \$100,000,” Daggett said.

According to 1stSgt. Ivan Rodriguez, BICmd, the run gives the Marines an opportunity to get out and support the community which in turn supports the Marine Corps.

During the opening ceremony, Sgt Robinson R. Rodriguez of Logistics Division, represented the Marine Corps as BICmd’s NCO of the Quarter.



STAFF SGT. MICHAEL REED

To promote community relations, BICmd Marines run down the coast of Fernandina Beach during Saturday’s 10th annual Shrimp Festival 5K Run.



CPL. DENYELLE D. D’AVETA

PMO sports new look

The Provost Marshal’s Office here has opted to take on a new look with their patrol cars. Three weeks ago, the patrol cars began to receive new decals and almost all of them now sport this new look. The purpose of the change in appearance is to make patrol cars more visible.

Inside...

Marines head to Talladega for fundraiser.
Pg. 3

Role of LogCom’s Chief of Staff defined.
Pg. 4

Endangered species found aboard MCLB.
Pg. 5

A Few Good Words



LCDR ROGER RICHARDS
COMMAND CHAPLAIN

‘Day
of
prayer’

In case you were not already aware, today is the National Day of Prayer. The first Thursday of May has been set aside by Congress as the day we should all pray for our nation and its leaders. I believe it is significant that it is actually called the National Day of Prayer and not a National Day of Reflection or some other generic term.

Prayer assumes a deity. We cannot pray without acknowledging that there is a greater Being than ourselves. In the life of our nation, many have tried to remove references to God in public life, but it is not possible to do this without a complete re-writing of the United States Constitution, as well as the state constitutions of each of our 50 states. They all refer to God, and invoke His assistance in the governance of the people. We can no more remove God from our public life than we can remove our constitution, currency and numerous public buildings.

Prayer also assumes involvement. There is little point in prayer if we do not believe that prayer can make a difference. I believe that prayer makes a difference in my life when I pray. I also believe that it makes a difference in the object of my petition. When I ask God to guide our nation’s leaders, I believe that He offers them wisdom and guidance. If they are open to God’s leadership, we benefit even further.

Prayer involves commitment. I will pray for something when I believe in it and am committed to it. It is difficult for me to pray for something I do not care about. Since I care about my family, I want a place for them in which to live that is safe and free. I want to pray for my nation to remain strong to better enable it to protect the weak. I pray for my nation because I care about it, and I am committed to it.

There is an old expression that a rising tide raises all ships together. It conveys the idea that when our nation benefits, the people in it benefit. But it goes further than that. We are a very influential nation in the world. Other nations’ economies are affected by our economy. Therefore, when our nation prospers, others prosper. When we are godly in our national practices and policies, we are able to influence others to godliness.

Prayer involves dependence, as well. It acknowledges that we must have God’s help and leadership. We must depend upon God for our very survival as a nation. We don’t ever want to assume that God is on our side simply because we are the United States of America. Rather, we need to ensure that the United States of America is on God’s side. We need to make sure that our customs and practices reflect God’s influence on us. If we are obedient to Him, we will be spiritually, morally and ethically strong. Only then can we truly be internationally strong.

Pause today and ask for God’s help for our leaders. Pray for the President, the Legislature and the Judiciary. Pray for our nation as a whole. Pray for the state and local governmental leaders. Ask God to lead them as they lead us. And pray that we will be godly in following them and that we will continue to be godly in the coming days as we elect new government officials.

Semper Fi in the Lord, and I hope to see you in church on Sunday.

COMMAND RELIGIOUS PROGRAM
WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sunday School 9 a.m.
Divine Services 10:30 a.m.

For more information, call the Base Chapel at
639-5282. For emergencies, call the
Officer of the Day at 639-5206.

Crossroads Restaurant Menu

Today	Sauteed cube steak w/gravy
Soup of the Day	Steamed rice
Southern fried chicken	Fried cabbage
Homemade meatloaf	Southern green beans
Macaroni & cheese	Rolls & butter
Southern style greens	Salad bar
Corn nuggets	
Cornbread	
Vernon’s cream cheese pound cake	Tuesday
Salad bar	Soup of the Day
	Sesame chicken wings
	Baked meatloaf
Friday	Fried rice
Soup of the Day	Stir fried vegetables
Baked & fried whiting	Salad bar
Chicken pot pie	
Mashed potatoes	Wednesday
Collard greens	Soup of the Day
Buttered corn	Sliced roast pork
Cornbread muffins	El Rancho stew
Salad bar	Steamed rice
	Squash saute
Monday	Steamed broccoli
Soup of the Day	Rolls & butter
Fried chicken	Salad bar

Lunch Buffet & Lunch Buffet Takeout — \$5.95
Soup & Salad and Soup & Salad Takeout — \$3.95
(add dessert \$4.95)
Express Lunch — \$3.95

Hours of Operation — Mon. - Fri., 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Native Americans return to Chehaw

The Parks at Chehaw hosts Native American Cultural Festival, May 15-16

MR. SHANNON SMALLWOOD
CHEHAW PARKS DEPT.

ALBANY, Ga. — A living history of sacred stories, hand-crafted regalia and rhythmic music returns to Southwest Georgia at the Native American Cultural Festival hosted by The Parks at Chehaw, May 14-16.

Admission to the event is:
Friday night — \$5 for adults (12+) and \$3 for children (3-12). Children 3-and-under are free.

Saturday and Sunday — \$7 for adults (12+) and \$4 for children (3-12). Children 3-and-under are free.

Three-day passes can be purchased for \$16 for adults (12+) and \$8 for children (3-12).

Friday, May 14, begins with School Day activities 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. School Day charges are \$3

per student and chaperone. Teachers and bus drivers are free. Daily admission includes entry into the park and zoo.

Event performances are May 14 from 6-10 p.m.; May 15 from 9 a.m. – 10 p.m., and May 16 from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

The park will close on May 14, 3-5 p.m. to clear the School Day activities and prepare for the opening evening of events.

Demonstrators, educators and competition dancers will focus on the vast and unique culture of Native Americans throughout the world.

“The Parks at Chehaw is very proud to be bringing the Native Americans back to Chehaw. The Park’s goal as always is to educate the public, and we feel that this is an outstanding way to accomplish our mission. We have worked hard to bring in



FILE PHOTO

There will be native Americans from several tribes performing during the three-day festival at The Parks of Chehaw.

the best vendors, demonstrators and dancers available. A festival of this quality will enhance our community in countless ways,” said Ben Kirkland, event coordinator.

Highlighting this year’s program at The Parks at Chehaw is the World Champion Hoop

Dancer Daniel Tramper. Chehaw is also proud to host the Kuna Indians of South America who will make their first appearance at an American festival. Hundreds of other competition dancers and performers have been invited to **See Festival — Page 6**



STAFF SGT. MICHAEL REED

Civilian Marines recognized for OIF support

During an April 27 awards ceremony, Col. Carl D. Matter, commanding officer, Blount Island Command, presented Certificate of Commendations to the Civilian Marines aboard Blount Island who deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Deployed from June to October, the award recipients served as material specialists in support of the Maritime Prepositioning Force program.

Leave donations requests for employee emergencies

The Annual Leave Transfer Program may be used by employees to request annual leave donations.

To become a leave recipient, an employee must submit a copy of Optional Form 630, Leave Recipient Application Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program, along with supporting medical documentation.

• **Brad B. Sanders**, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations to care for family member. Call Linda Golden at 639-6489.

• **Cindy B. Shelton**, an employee of Supply Chain Management Center, needs leave donations for recuperation from surgery. Call Diane Bradley at 639-7351 for further details.

• **Beryl W. Brown**, an

employee of Fleet Support Division, needs leave donations for recuperation from an auto accident. Call Sherrie Kuck at 639-5881.

• **Robert A. Dickerson**, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations due to illness. Call Thomas Newton at 639-6348.

• **Reid E. Merritt**, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations to care for family member. Call Brenda Brandt at 639-6308.

• **Brenda M. Washington**, an employee of Transportation Voucher Certification Division, needs leave donations for recuperation from illness. Call Genny Goerling at 639-5674.

For more information, call 639-5228.

To donate annual leave, submit an Optical Form 630-A.

Base Theater Schedule

FRIDAY - MAY 7

7 p.m. -- *Scooby Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed*, rated PG— Matthew Lillard, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Linda Cardellini, Seth Green

SATURDAY - MAY 8

7 p.m. -- *Scooby Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed*, rated PG— Matthew Lillard, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Linda Cardellini, Seth Green

WEDNESDAY - MAY 12

7 p.m. -- *The Passion of Christ*, rated R — James Caviezel, Monica Bellucci, Rosalinda Celentano, Sergio Rubini

Free Admission

Hot Dog\$.75	Large soda\$1.00
Sausage\$1.00	Small soda\$.75
Nachos\$1.00	Large popcorn....\$1.50
Candy\$.50	Med. popcorn\$1.00
Slim Jims\$.75	Small popcorn ... \$.75

Community Briefs

— Step up and be recognized! MCLB Albany will host the 4th annual Graduate Recognition Ceremony Jun. 4, starting at 2 p.m. in the Base Theater.

If you are a Marine, Sailor, civilian employee, or an immediate family member of any of the above and have graduated, or will graduate from college between June 2003 and June 2004 and wish to be recognized, then respond no later than May 15 to the Base Education Office.

For more information, call 639-5162.

— Arena football will be May 8 in the Columbus Civic Center starting at 7:30 p.m. The Columbus Wardogs will play the Florida Firecats. Tickets are \$10-\$28. For more information, call Shelby Pouncil, Albany Civic Center Box Office, at 430-5204.

— Marine & Family Services will host the 2nd Annual Military Retiree Appreciation Day, May 15.

All military retirees, service

disabled veterans and their families are invited to attend. Coffee will be served at 9:30 a.m., and the events will begin at 10 a.m. in the Crossroads Restaurant.

Come and enjoy the Albany Marine Band and a special colors ceremony. A special lunch will be served at noon costing \$6 per person.

To register, call James Snipes, Retired Activities Office, at 639-5277.

— Tomorrow is 50’s Night at the Officers’ Club. RSVP to Lt. Hayes at 639-5474. The fun begins at 6 p.m.

— ITT has affordable vacation packages in the Orlando, Florida area. There is a Universal Orlando package for only \$277. Call ITT today at 639-8177.

— Key Volunteer training will be held May 10 & 11. Training will be held at the Base Chapel from 6 - 9 p.m. Free childcare is available. Dinner is provided for participants. Call 639-5199 to register.

Dougherty Youth Symphony Spring Concert

The Dougherty Youth Orchestra concludes the performing season with their fifth major concert of the year. The Spring Concert will be the culmination of the seventh and most successful year yet for the Dougherty Youth Orchestra.

The orchestra is performing their Spring Concert, conducted by Sergio Rodriguez and Alexander Reshetchenko, May 11 at 7 p.m. in the Darton College theater. This concert will include the full symphony orchestra with strings, winds and percussions. A solo performance by Robert Sharp will be featured in “Concerto for Guitar and Orchestra by Antonio Vivaldi in A Major. Soprano, Theresa Bell will showcase her outstanding vocal talent in “O Mio Bambino Caro” from the opera “Gianni Schicchi” by Puccini. Orchestra selections from the “Three B’s” include “Little Fugue in G Minor,” by Bach; “Academic Festival Overture by Brahms and Beethoven’s “Symphony No 7 Second Movement.” Other selections include “Evita,” by Andrew Lloyd Webber, as well as Sergio Rodriguez’s own “ASilvia” and “Popurri Floklorico Hondureno.”

The concerts presented by these talented musicians have no charge for admission, but please feel free to make a small donation (no more than \$5 per adult) at the door if you would like to support the orchestra.



The Emblem



Commander, Marine Corps Logistics Command.....Maj. Gen. Harold Mashburn Jr.
Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany.....Col. Joseph R. Wingard
Public Affairs Officer.....Capt. Steve Butler
Public Affairs Chief.....Gunnery Sgt. Marlon J. Martin
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Published by The Albany Herald Publishing Company, a firm in no way connected with the Department of Defense or the United States Marine Corps under exclusive written contract with Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga.

This commercial enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services. Editorial comments and personal submissions within The Emblem should not be directly attributed as endorsement to the official views of the local command or United States Marine Corps.

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Editorial content (i.e., all content other than paid advertisements) is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga.

Marines race to Talladega for fundraising event

Story and Photos by
LANCE CPL. KEVIN J. RIDLON
EMBLEM STAFF

Marines of Marine Corps Logistic Base Albany enjoyed a beautiful, hot weekend filled with speeding race cars and thousands of NASCAR fans yelling “get ‘er done,” as they worked a concession stand and sold beverages in the stands at the Talladega Super Speedway, April 23-25.

Earl Jones, Jacob Wiese, David Hinesbey, John Ankney, David Flores, Kyle Holdmann, Timothy Mantell, Kati Propst, Sandor Toledo, Jared Wolfe, Derek Jansma, Christopher Burgess, Jonathan Bronson, Sebastian Dennis, Lynden Gwartney, Christopher O’Roark, Jeffery Herman, Steven May, Thomas Brooks and Thomas and Tremakia Summerlin were the Marines who traveled to Talladega to work to raise money for the Enlisted and Staff Noncommissioned Officer Marine Corps Birthday Balls.

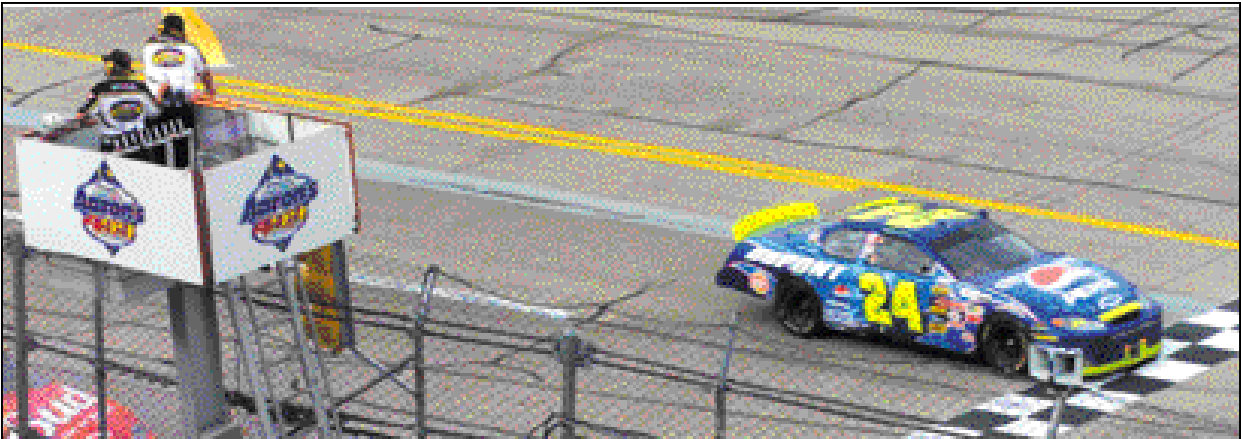
“We had 21 Marines total that went: four Staff NCOs, and 17 NCOs and below,” said Earl Jones, equipment specialist, Marine Corps Systems Command, “so 75 percent of the money will go towards the enlisted ball and 25 percent towards the Staff NCO ball.

Jones went on to say that after a total of three days working at the race \$9,000-\$11,000 was raised from working at the concession stand and walking in the stands.

“After AmeriCrown, an East Coast catering company for NASCAR events, takes its portion of the money, we should have \$900-\$1,100,” Jones said.

The Marines sold food and beverages at a concession stand that was located at the top of the tower stands, and also walked the stands selling beverages to the fans.

“I thought it was a great experience and the appreciation the civilians gave us was great,” said Jared Wolfe, fiscal clerk, S-4. “I would definitely go again. Any way we can earn money for the ball is worth it.”



Jeff Gordon gets the checkered flag, as he crosses the finish line and wins the Aaron’s 499 at Talladega Super Speedway.

Some of the Marines also got a chance to go and tour the garage area and see the Marine car, as well as meet and talk with the pit crew and driver.

“For my first experience with NASCAR, I couldn’t have had a better time,” said Lynden Gwartney, travel clerk, Resource Management. “Overall, it was a great experience, and I would like to do it again.”

The Marines worked the stands for the qualifying and practice sessions for the Busch Series on Friday, the Busch Series race and qualifying session for the Aaron’s 499 on Saturday, and the Aaron’s 499 on Sunday.

“I would just like to thank all of the Marines who participated,” Jones said. “They volunteered their own time to go make money for the ball. Also, all of the Marines were very professional to the fans, AmeriCrown staff and especially to each other. All of the Marines’ hard work and professionalism made this trip to Talladega both enjoyable and memorable. I can’t wait until the next one.”



Albany’s Team Marine poses with the official Marine NASCAR entry vehicle.



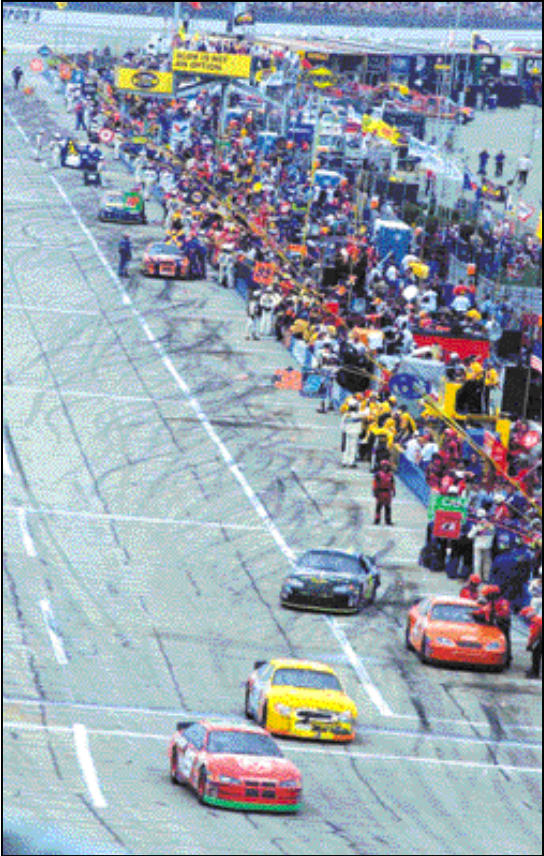
Dale Earnhardt Jr. leads the pack, as the race cars speed into turn four at the midway point of the 188-lap race.



Members of the pit crew for Team Marine push their race car out of the garage after inspection by race officials.



Kyle Holdmann offers water to thirsty customers.



Where the race is won — in the pits. Drivers re-enter the track.



Fans get up close to the excitement at Talladega Super Speedway during the running of the Aaron’s 499 race.

STAND OPERATED BY
USMC ALBANY HQ
BATTALLION

(Pictured from left to right) Jeffery Herman cooks up a batch of fries to serve customers. Tremakia Summerlin and Kati Propst seem to enjoy their duties of counting all the cash the Marines raised during the race. Thomas Summerlin, David Hinesbey and William Burgess set up an assembly line to handle food more efficiently. Lastly, Burgess shows his hand at flipping the “burgers” sold to hungry customers at the speedway.

C/S monitors LogCom’s optimum performance, synergy

CPL. DENYELLE D. D’AVETA
EMBLEM STAFF

While most people may not think of the many roles and tasks that a command position brings with the title, it is much harder than it looks. Marines and civilians alike have seen Col. Arthur Sass, Chief of Staff, Marine Corps Logistics Command, but may not be sure of what it is he does exactly.

“In not so many words, I coordinate prepositioning, maintenance, and the supply of equipment, as well as monitor LogCom (which include Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, MCLB Barstow and Blount Island Command) and serve as an ambassador to the local community,” Sass said. “I ensure that our main job, which is to support commanders and troops in the field, is being done correctly and efficiently.”

Col. Sass has been part of this command since 2001 and has spent a big part of his time here in the position. Because of the time difference

between the east and the west coast, when Marines here are finishing their day, Marines on the west coast are only halfway through their workday.

“The difference in time keeps me in the office very late at night,” Sass said. “I can’t just leave. It is important that the commanders on the west coast have access to me in case they need anything. I need to be here for them.”

Even though the job brings with it late hours and many meetings, Sass said he enjoys it because of the people he has the opportunity to interact with.

“In this position, I have met many people,” Sass said. “I have interaction with a lot of different people, and that is my favorite part of the job.”

Sass added that although he enjoys many aspects of his job, he does not take for granted the importance of it.

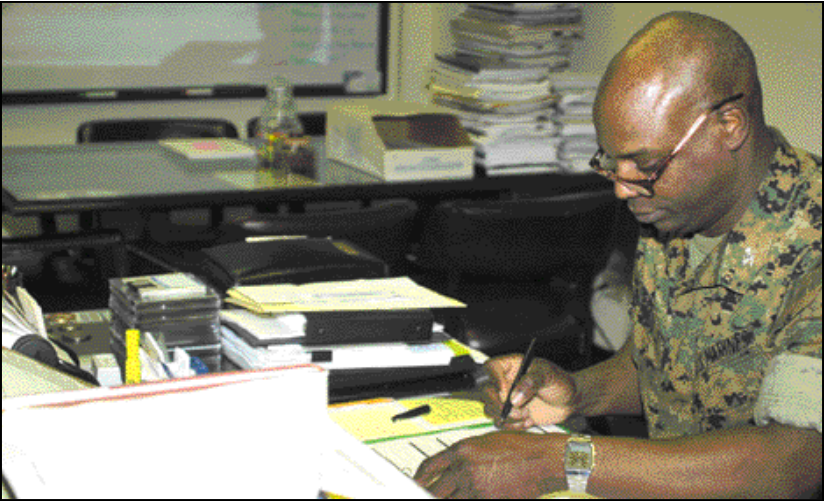
“We (LogCom) are relevant to the warfighter,” Sass said. “The Marines in LogCom are part of the

warfighting efforts, and the Marines all over the world that are fighting are getting what they need because of them. I make sure that happens in an efficient and synergetic manner. Without LogCom Marines doing their jobs, those warfighters may not get what they need. In essence, their lives depend a lot on their equipment and having it work properly.”

As a whole, Sass oversees everything that goes on within LogCom.

“From where I sit, I can see all the good we (LogCom) do for the Marine Corps,” Sass said. “Many may not know it, but LogCom Marines add to the value of the Marine Corps. It is important for Marines to know that what they do everyday helps the Marine Corps. While they may not get to see that, I am lucky enough to get to see it all.”

Sass is not in this alone. Along with the many Marines that contribute by doing their job, Capt. Keith Hudson, serves as the LogCom staff secretary and Col. Sass’s right-hand man. He reviews, handles and processes all documents



CPL. DENYELLE D. D’AVETA

Col. Arthur Sass, chief of staff, LogCom, monitors MCLB Albany, MCLB Barstow and BICmd to ensure they have optimum performance and synergy.

that are prepared for the commanding general and the chief of staff.

“My job is to ensure that all documents for the commanding general

and the chief of staff are correct and prepared in a timely manner,” Hudson said.

In addition to his administrative duties, Hudson also is referred to as the “keeper of the gates.” The reason for the reference is because before anyone sees the chief of staff, they must go through him.

Hudson also helps manage time for the chief of staff by scheduling all appointments and maintaining calendars.

In all, the chief of staff and the staff secretary both have busy days and sometimes nights. Nonetheless, they still continue to help the “big green machine” keep moving.

Motivated sergeant takes top honors in leadership

CPL. ISAAC PACHECO
EMBLEM STAFF

Striving to be the best has consistently been Marines’aim since Samuel Nicholas first set up shop in Tun Tavern back on that brisk November morning in 1775.

Today, “America’s elite fighting force” continues to lead from the front, and one Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany “Devil Dog” is making sure it stays that way.

Sgt. Lucus Crider, travel clerk, reaffirmed this mantra when he recently completed the Sergeants Leadership Course at Camp Lejeune, N.C., as the honor graduate — first in his class of 96 Marines.

Crider, a Hartselle, Ala., native, attended the course expecting to be transformed into a better leader. What he ended up with was the experience of a lifetime.

“I wanted the tools to be able to lead Marines,” Crider said. “Our

instructors were full of knowledge, and we gained a lot of knowledge from their experience. We had 96 students in the cours, and between all of them, there were 60 different military occupational specialties. A lot of knowledge trickled down from (the other sergeants) as well.”

According to the official Marine Corps Web site, the Sergeants Course provides Marine Corps sergeants with the knowledge and skills necessary to

assume leadership roles of greater responsibility. Instruction places emphasis on leadership development and warfighting skills necessary to lead Marines in combat, and builds upon the knowledge gained in the distance education program.

Sergeants Course graduates now have the enhanced knowledge and skills necessary to successfully act in the role of a small unit leader.

Graduates are able to confidently lead a PT (physical training) session, drill a platoon-sized unit, give a period of instruction, and prepare Marines for inspections. Their skills are enhanced to have a greater knowledge of the counseling program, personnel administration, as well as improved verbal and written communication skills.

Sergeants Course graduates are trained to be better prepared to assist Marines dealing with those issues facing today’s Corps and pass on the history, customs and traditions which sustain the Corps’heritage.

In warfighting, the sergeant will have a working knowledge of the operation, maintenance, and employment of weapon systems organic to the infantry battalion. He/she will be familiar with the tactics and concepts of “maneuver warfare” and its application to offensive and defensive operations at the squad and platoon level. With these skills, sergeants will have the confidence and ability to conduct security patrols, establish a defensive position, or function in a rear area security environment.

Crider overcame various challenges to grab the top spot at the Sergeants Course and was rewarded with a complementary fitness report, NCO sword and plaque from the school.

“We always had some type of assignment, book report or essay due, and we still had to practice drill and PT,” Crider explained. “The main thing I used to succeed in the course was time management.”

Crider said he intends to apply his newfound knowledge and leadership skills to the Marines in his shop.

“All the information I gained while I was at the course is being used,” Crider said. We’re practicing drill and knowledge, and working together to turn our less-experienced Marines into strong leaders.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Sgt. Crider (3rd from left) stands proudly with members of his shop who visited Camp Lejeune to witness him receive his NCO sword as the honor graduate of the Sergeants Leadership Course.

DeCA employees recognized as EEO award recipients

CARRIE WILLIAMS
DECA PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FORT LEE, Va. – The Defense Commissary Agency recognized three of its employees for outstanding Equal Employment Opportunity achievements in 2003 during a ceremony and reception at its headquarters here yesterday.

The employees are Bradley Flagler, Central Distribution Center, Germersheim, Germany; Isaac Simmons, Ramstein Air Base, Germany; and Lerma Anderson, Fort McPherson, Ga. DeCA also named the Midwest Region Headquarters as its EEO organization of the year.

“DeCA serves a diverse customer base and benefits from a diverse work force. Incorporating the federal government’s equal employment opportunity principles into our management philosophy is vital for our agency’s well being — and to the success of the commissary benefit. These individuals and our Midwest Region earned these awards because they put our ideals into practice,” said DeCADirector Air Force Maj. Gen. Michael P. Wiedemer.

Flagler, a traffic manager, received the agency’s disabled employee of the year award. He manages the flow of approximately 18,000 annual shipments of commissary resale items and a budget exceeding \$4.4 million a year. According to Germersheim CDC Deputy Chief Robert Newborn, “Brad exemplifies an honest work ethic, respect and goodwill for his co-workers and staff.” Supervising a staff of 14 employees from five nationalities, “Brad demonstrates fairness that encourages cohesion, teamwork and an esprit de corps working environment,” Newborn explained.

Simmons, a store manager, is EEO employee of the year. “Isaac earned this title for his overall approach to his job,” said Harry Nichols, Ramstein store director. “He hires without regard to race, age, gender, national origin or disability. When he senses employee discontent, he doesn’t ignore it and let it fester.

He talks to staff members who have concerns and grievances and he works to resolve issues before they escalate into official complaints. Isaac also promotes understanding of different cultures by supporting special emphasis celebrations, arranging for guest speakers and coordinating ethnic food demonstrations.”

DeCA presented Anderson, a customer service manager, the award for the EEO leader of the year. Kelly Brody, Fort McPherson store manager, said Anderson earned this distinction for her initiative in starting an Employee of the Month program. “And for ensuring that it recognizes people equitably, based on their contributions to DeCA’s mission,” Brody said. “She works to prevent discrimination and sexual harassment claims by mentoring employees in these areas and providing an ear for staff members needing counseling.”

DeCA’s Midwest Region, headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, received the agency’s EEO organization of the year award. “The Midwest Region hired five disabled students through the Workforce Recruitment Program,” said Karen Swindell, DeCA’s disabilities program manager. “Two provided administrative assistance; the other three worked in support, equal employment opportunity and personnel positions.” In addition, the Midwest Region commissary at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, set up a program that hires special needs students from the local school system. The program has 20 students who report to the produce department three times a week for volunteer work experience.

It's
time to
donate
blood
again.

Rare animal species found on MCLB



FILE PHOTO
A stork locates food, mostly small fresh water fish, not by sight but by groping with its bill in shallow water.



FILE PHOTO
Juvenile tortoises have bright tan and brown shells, while adult's shells are darker. Their front legs are also flat and heavily scaled.

LANCE CPL. KEVIN J. RIDLON
EMBLEM STAFF

Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany is a small, quiet place with plenty of forest, water and open areas.

For the endangered Wood Stork, the threatened Eastern Indigo Snake, the Gopher Tortoise and the American Alligator, this is a perfect setting for their homes.

These four rare animal species were found living here back in 1994 when the Georgia Heritage Foundation did a biological survey of all the plants and animals aboard the base.

Out of the four animal species, the Wood Stork is the only one that is not a permanent resident.

This large bird that stands 40-44 inches and has a wingspan of up to five and a half feet, can be occasionally spotted at Indian lake, feeding on small fish, frogs and crustaceans.

According to Charles Parramore, Natural Resources manager, the Wood Stork can be seen more in the summer months when the water levels of Indian Lake are low.

The other three animal species are all permanent residents and also threatened species.

The Eastern Indigo Snake is the largest snake in North America, reaching lengths of 60-100 inches, and can be spotted by its lustrous blue-black or mixed brown and black color.

This snake is harmless to man as it feeds primarily on frogs, birds, lizards, turtles and other snakes.

The Indigo Snake may be found in the pinewoods here, or living in gopher holes.

Like the Indigo Snake, the Gopher Tortoise shares the same habitat, and also can be found living in gopher holes.

The Gopher Tortoise originally got his unique name

from his great ability to dig.

The tortoise is 9-14 inches with a domed shell and round, stumpy hind legs.

The last threatened specie here is the American Alligator, which can be found in the Indian Lake or occasionally in Horse Shoe Pond.

Alligators are known to eat just about anything.

Their primary diet, however, consist of frogs, snakes, fish, wading birds, other smaller alligators, beavers and dead animals. If left alone, they generally shy away from people.

“The swampland is relatively untouched,” said Dan Gillum, Head, Environmental Department.

“We have the boardwalk to walk on, but there is no hunting or fishing allowed. Some people go to watch the animals, but the animals are not bothered.”

The base, state and federal agencies have made rules and laws to protect these animals from anyone trying to injure or kill them.

Individuals caught doing so can face heavy fines and/or jail time.

“This is one of the jobs of the game wardens,” Gillum said. “The game wardens makes rounds everyday to make sure that nobody is abusing an area or animals and to make sure everything looks good.”

Gillum went on the say that the forest and water areas here are maintained on a regular basis. Among the many methods they use are controlled fire, which keeps under brush from building u, and cutting down timber to allow more sunlight to hit the ground.

Such measures as these limit the possibility of runaway fires.

“We just maintain the land,” Gillum said. “This gives them a habitat that they can live in.”



FILE PHOTO
Alligator mississippiensis lives in coastal marshes and inland waters of the southeastern U.S. and are considered endangered.



CPL. ISAAC PACHECO
Controlled fire is one of many methods that MCLB conservationist use each year to protect MCLB's habitat.



FILE PHOTO
Indigo snakes are massive, blue-black snakes and can reach a length of almost nine feet.

Marine Corps looking for a few good EOAs

What is MOS 8534? If you do not know you are not alone! Many Marines are unaware of this duty assignment, which is vital to the Marine Corps. It is the billet of the Equal Opportunity Advisor.

Equal Opportunity Advisors are Staff NCOs who volunteer to represent major commands as the advisor to the commanding general/officer and subordinate commanders on all Equal Opportunity matters. They are trainers, mediators and climate assessors. They provide counseling, complaint assistance and investigative reviews of equal opportunity complaints.

EOAs also conduct Commanding General Inspections on command Equal Opportunity Programs to ensure compliance with the Commandant's intent for equal opportunity, and assist in the coordination of ethnic observances to increase education and awareness. The EOAserves as a special staff member for the commanding general/officer.

Each advisor is carefully screened and selected to attend a formal school at the DoD Equal Opportunity Management Institute, Patrick Air Force Base, Cocoa Beach, Fla. There are only 37 EOAs throughout the Corps; they truly are the few and proud to serve in this billet with a great responsibility upon their shoulders.

For more information on EOA responsibilities, see MCO 5354.3B or contact Master Gunnery Sgt. Michael McNeal, senior EOA, HQMC, at DSN 278-9371/2 or (703) 784-9371/2. An interview by an EOA is required accompanied by an Administrative Action form and CO's checklist.

Festival — From Page 2

compete through the weekend.

“We are excited to bring the history and pageantry of Native Americans back to Southwest Georgia,” said Shannon Smallwood, marketing director, The Parks at Chehaw. “The last Indian Festival held on the park the third weekend in May was considered one of the 10 best in the Southeast, and our goal is to bring this festival up to that high standard.”

“More than 40,000 folks attended the past festivals, and we know we can exceed that number in a few years. We’re shooting for 20,000 this year and have a fantastic line up of demonstrators and performances that will keep the crowds entertained throughout the weekend. Southwest Georgia needs something to hang their hat on, and this event will be just that!”

Updates and complete details of the event can be found at www.parksatchehaw.org/festival/.

Questions about the event

can be forwarded to Web site nacf@parksatchehaw.org, or individuals can call 430-5280.

For more information, contact Shannon Smallwood at 430-5295 or e-mail to mssmallwood@parksatchehaw.org.

2004 Native American Cultural Festival Arena Schedule

May 14

9 a.m. — Gates open for school day activities; music

10 a.m. —Welcome school group; Flute by Billy Whitefox and Orea Doran

10:30 a.m. —Story telling by Nancy Basket

11 a.m. — Iron Mountain Dancers

11:30 a.m. — Story Telling by Paul Eddy,

12 p.m. —Hoop Dance, 2004 world champion Daniel Tramper

12:30 p.m. —Aztec Dancers

1 p.m. —Southeastern cultures by Jimmy Sawgrass and Diamond Brown

1:30 p.m. — Primitive skills demonstration of weapons and making fire-by-friction

3 - 5:00 p.m. — Festival break

6 p.m. — Gates open

6:30 p.m. — Flute by Orea Doran and Billy Whitefox

7 p.m. — Story telling by Paul Eddy; Traditional “Lighting of the Fire”

7:30 p.m. — Iron Mountain Dancers

8:00 p.m. — Hoop Dance by Daniel Tramper

8:30 p.m. — Aztec Dancers

9:00 p.m. — Intertribal dancing

10:00 p.m. —Event closes

May 15

9:00 a.m. — Gates open

10:00 a.m. — Prayer; Flute by Billy Whitefox and Orea Doran

10:30 a.m. — Primitive skills demonstration of weapons and making fire-by-friction.

11 a.m. — Southeastern cultures by Jimmy Sawgrass and Diamond Brown

11:30 a.m. — Iron Mountain Dancers

12:00 p.m. — Aztec Dancers

12:30 p.m. — Story telling by Paul Eddy

1 p.m. — Grand entry; presentation of colors; National Anthem; veterans dance

1:30 p.m. — Dance competition

3 p.m. — Hoop Dance, 2004 world champion Daniel Tramper

3:30 p.m. — Dance competition

5 p.m. — Aztec Dancers

6 p.m. — Flute by Billy Whitefox and Orea Doran

6:30 p.m. — Traditional “Lighting of the Fire”

7:00 p.m. — Grand entry; dance competition

9 p.m. — Hoop dance

9:30 p.m. — Intertribal dancing

10 p.m. — Event closes

May 16

9 a.m. — Gates open

10 a.m. — Prayer; Flute playing by Billy Whitefox and Orea Doran

10:30 a.m. — Story telling by Nancy Basket

11 a.m. — Southeastern cultures by Russell Cutts

11:30 a.m. — Iron Mountain Dancers

12 p.m. — Aztec Dancers

12:30 p.m. — Story telling by Paul Eddy

1 p.m. — Grand entry; presentation of colors; National Anthem; veterans dance

1:30 p.m. — Dance competition

3 p.m. — Hoop dance

3:30 p.m. — Dance competition

5 p.m. — Aztec Dancers

5:30 p.m. — Presentation of awards

6 p.m. — Event closes

*Schedule, times and performances are all subject to change..

A special Thank You

In Recognition of National Teacher Appreciation Week,
We’d Like to Send a Heartfelt Thank You to the
Teachers and Staff of the
Children, Youth and Teen Programs
Aboard MCLB Albany.

We appreciate all the time and effort you dedicate to
our children each and every day!
—Your Parents

Kennel — From Page 1

dogs; office space for the handlers; an in-house veterinary area and an expanded training field.

“Before we had the new facility, we often had to go out to the pecan fields to do some of our training,” said Sgt. Kyle Holdmann, military working dog handler. “This larger training area gives us more options, and allows us to conduct our long-distance and open area scenarios right here. The location is perfect.”

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the spotlight went to the dogs, literally. Handlers introduced their canine crime fighters to the crowd and showcased their talents in a post-ceremony demonstration.

The demo included obstacle course maneuvering, obedience training and simulated attack scenarios.

Amid the festivities, however, was a note of seriousness. Lance Cpl. Tiffany Jackson, military working dog handler, celebrated not only the opening of the new kennels but also a new chapter in her life. She was leaving for Iraq.

“I’m excited to go. This is what I’ve trained for since the beginning. I’m looking forward to being in a real-life situation. My dad was there last year, and my brother is there now,” Jackson explained. “Now it’s my turn. Ooh rah!”